

Gloucester City Council

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| Meeting: | Special Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny Committee Council | Date: | 20 May 2020 15 June 2020 9 July 2020 |
| Subject: | Council Plan Extension – Priorities and Actions for 2020/21 | | |
| Report Of: | Leader of the Council | | |
| Wards Affected: | All | | |
| Key Decision: | Yes | Budget/Policy Framework: | Yes |
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| Appendices: | 1. List of Council Plan Priorities and Actions | | |

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the proposed actions and priorities that are set out for the one year Council Plan extension in 2020-2021.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RECOMMEND** that the one year extension to the Council Plan and the priorities and actions outlined in Appendix 1 be approved.
- 2.2 Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the information contained in the report and make any recommendations.
- 2.3 Council is asked to **RESOLVE** that the one year extension to the Council Plan and the priorities and actions outlined in Appendix 1 be approved.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 The current Council Plan was approved by Council in September 2017. It sets out the vision for the Council, its partners and residents to make Gloucester a 'City that Works for Everyone'. The Plan lists the Council's planned projects and activities between 2017 and 2020 in order to achieve its ambition of improving the lives of everyone who lives in, works in and visits Gloucester.
- 3.2 The Plan is structured into four priorities:
1. Working to create a vibrant and prosperous city
 2. Working to maintain a safe and attractive city
 3. Working to build strong and resilient communities
 4. Working to provide great services that ensure value for money

- 3.3 A new Council Plan was due to be developed following the local elections in May 2020, however, the elections have been postponed to May 2021 in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has disrupted the usual Council Plan cycle, meaning there is a need for a one year extension to the 2016-2020 Council Plan to cover the period up to autumn 2021.
- 3.4 With this in mind, a set of priorities and actions has been developed. This includes initiatives that are ongoing and outstanding from the existing Council Plan. These initiatives are fundamental in providing a smooth and continuous service to the people of Gloucester, based on the four priorities listed above, during such an unpredictable time.
- 3.5 It also includes new initiatives and priorities that are deemed appropriate to be introduced at this time, as they will form the basis of future work and upcoming council projects.
- 3.6 These priorities and actions do not include a specific action on 'recovery' from the COVID-19 crisis, as this will be a core objective central to all of the council's actions over the coming months, and is still evolving. Therefore, the priorities and actions set out in Appendix 1 are focused on continuous and new service delivery going forward.
- 3.6 This one year Council Plan extension is intended to serve only as an interim plan, to ensure continuity of services and the delivery of major initiatives until the local elections can be held in 2021. After the 2021 elections, a process will be undertaken to develop a new Council Plan.

4.0 Social Value Considerations

- 4.1 Several actions/projects have a direct positive impact on generating social value, including the proposed Social Value Policy.

5.0 Environmental Implications

- 5.1 Several actions/projects have a direct positive impact on the environment, including the proposal of a low-carbon impact festivals and events programme across the City, and proposing to maximise the use of low carbon construction methods and energy production to minimise lifetime carbon costs.
- 5.2 In addition to these projects, the Council aims for carbon neutrality throughout all of the work it undertakes. Examples of this work currently ongoing includes increasing recycling rates and continuing to improve air quality within Gloucester.

6.0 Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 None directly arising from this report

7.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 7.1 A one year extension to the Council Plan is required due to the cancellation of the 2020 local elections, and the subsequent disruption to the Council Plan cycle, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

8.0 Future Work and Conclusions

- 8.1 If approved, council officers will continue to deliver projects not yet completed and initiate projects as outlined in Appendix 1 and set out in individual Service Plans.

9.0 Financial Implications

- 9.1 None directly arising from this report. Each new priority will be delivered from existing budgets or budgets will be agreed as and when relevant decisions are made.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.)

10.0 Legal Implications

- 10.1 The Council Plan is a Policy Framework document and therefore requires full Council approval after endorsement by Cabinet and consultation with Overview and Scrutiny.

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation of this report.)

11.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

- 11.1 N/A

12.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:

- 12.1 N/A

13.0 Community Safety Implications

- 13.1 A number of actions/projects have a direct positive impact on the community safety considerations.

14.0 Staffing & Trade Union Implications

- 14.1 N/A

Background Documents: None